

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

April 13, 2015

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, April 13, 2015, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Connor, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 16, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Christopher Willi reported that the Superintendent Search Committee held its first meeting this afternoon. All members did their homework and came to the meeting prepared. There were 16 applicants and the committee came to consensus very quickly as to which should be interviewed. If there are any interview questions the School Committee would like to have asked, please forward them to Marsha Gutierrez. Interviews will start on May 5.

Megan Hennessy and Shannon Morgan were present to update the committee on this year's cultural activities programs. Off-island trips included Mystic Aquarium with lunch at Mystic Pizza and the RISD Museum with ice skating in Providence. There was an on-island music session with Cameron Greenlee where the students played their band instruments and recorded a Beatles song. The coordinators requested an increase in their transportation budget because they have been unable to secure bus service for less than \$450 per trip, which severely restricts their off-island trips.

Mr. Hicks stated that attendance rate dropped this past quarter. Third quarter attendance rate was 91.3 percent versus 93.4 percent last year. This brought the annual rate to 93.4 percent, which is slightly behind last year's 94.0 percent. There were a lot of sick students this winter.

Mr. Hicks reported that the first training session for the Youth Mental Health First Aid was held on March 31. The 12 people in attendance represented the school, police, library, medical center, and community-at-large. The five steps covered were assess for risk of suicide, listen non-judgmentally, give reassurance and information, encourage appropriate professional help, and encourage self-help. Another training for staff members will be held in November.

Mr. Hicks stated that the finance report is slightly more positive than last month. There were some additional savings in salary, although more was spent in plumbing. Both heat and electricity are trending well. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the fiscal report through March 31, 2015, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

Mr. Hicks reported that the school budget, which will be presented by the Town Council at the financial town meeting, includes the following changes: adjusts to current health care rates, includes the Governor's proposed state aid, and funds the Facility Director completely in the Town budget. There is no money in our proposed budget to continue our stipend position if the Facility Director is not hired by or shortly after July 1. This would affect our summer work and readiness for school opening. Mr. Hicks suggested purchasing the library chairs with money in the current budget thus freeing up the money in next year's budget to cover the stipend for our maintenance supervisor through the summer. If the Facility Director is not funded at all, the committee would have to rework its budget.

Mr. Hicks plans to work with the administrators to realign resources as part of a compromise to keep the part-time principal with reduced days. He plans to present the compromise at the May 18 School Committee meeting. Patricia Doyle requested that updates be provided to the committee on a quarterly basis so they are kept up-to-date on how the transition is working.

New Business

Policy DDB: Energy Conservation was submitted to comply with a requirement of the Stage II RIDE application. More components will be added once the facilities manager has been hired. A motion (Padien, Connor) to post Policy DDB: Energy Conservation for the required 20 days carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that the construction process is moving forward and the next step is to submit a Stage II application to RIDE which, when approved, will allow reimbursable work to go forward. The submission must include letters of support from the Town Council (authorized April 6) and the School Committee. A motion (Connor, Hall) to authorize a letter of support for RIDE's Stage II application carried with a vote of 5-0.

A request was received shortly after last month's meeting from Jessica and Chris Willi to home school their daughter, Abigail. Even though Abigail was absent from April 1-8 the policy requires School Committee approval for a student to miss more than five consecutive days of school. A motion (Connor, Hall) to approve the home schooling request from Jessica and Chris Willi carried with a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Willi having recused himself.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Callum Crawford as the head coach for the junior high softball team carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks submitted the tentative wage and health care agreement with the New Shoreham Employees Association and the required fiscal impact statement for approval. The Town Council approved it last month. A motion (Connor, Padien) to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with NSEA regarding wages and health care carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

The next regular School Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2015. The home opener for varsity baseball is this Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

Correspondence

A copy of the correspondence sent to Town Manager Nancy Dodge requesting a letter of support from the Town Council for the school's Stage II application to RIDE was forwarded for School Committee information.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 7:55 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: May 18, 2015